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Album Review

Blackout!

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Nathan Goodly

Method Man and Redman have finally released their anticipated collection, following the huge success of their 1995 hit single "How High" and their appearance on Jay-Z's *Hard Knock* tour earlier this year.

Both artists stepped things up for this album, spitting their infectious deliveries over a multitude of soundscapes, provided mainly by RZA and Erick Sermon. If that's not enough, this album features guest appearances from Ghostface Killah, Ja Rule, and a rejuvenated LL Cool J, as well as the aforementioned "How High" and duets from each others' respective solo albums, "Big Dogs" and "Well All Rite Cha."

This album consists of little subject matter, but Hott Nikkels and Funk Doc more than make up for it with their vocal charisma. Their lively use of ghetto terminology captivates the listener, whether it be on hyped-up tracks like "Y.O.U," the mischievous "Cereal Killer," or their reworking of a Das EFX classic on "Cheka."

Method Man and Redman's first album shows their great potential as a duo. Each rapper is a gifted lyricist in his own right, but when they come together it is something phenomenal. They feed off each other in the same tradition as great duos in the past like Run-DMC and Doug E. Fresh/Slick Rick. This is one of the few albums in recent memory that truly lives up to its hype.